

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 5(O)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 18, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution approving an
amendment to the authorized rate
schedule for private ambulance
providers

Resolution No. R-978-22

The accompanying resolution was prepared by the Transportation and Public Works Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks

Memorandum



Date: October 18, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor 

Subject: Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Authorized Rate Schedule for Private Ambulance Providers

Executive Summary

The purpose of this item is to provide a report and recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) for approval of a resolution amending the authorized rate schedule for private ambulance providers. There are five private ambulance certificate holders operating in Miami-Dade County who are seeking approval of an increase in the rates. The amended rates will have no fiscal impact to the County and will not affect Medicare and Medicaid patients. The current rate schedule for private ambulance providers was approved by the Board in March 2004. In June 2006, the Board approved an increase in the Basic Life Support (BLS) rate and established a new BLS Emergency rate. All other rates have remained unchanged for over 18 years. The private ambulance providers’ proposed rates are generally lower than the rates currently in effect for the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR). Specific amounts are enumerated in Tables 1 and 2.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve a request by the private ambulance providers to increase the BLS, BLS Emergency, and Advanced Life Support (ALS) transportation rates. It is also recommended that new rates be established for ALS Level 2 and Specialty Care Transport (SCT). The proposed rates are set forth below.

Scope

These proposed rates apply countywide.

Delegation of Authority

There is no delegation of authority under this resolution.

Fiscal Impact

There is no negative fiscal impact to the County. The new private ambulance rates will not affect Medicare and Medicaid patients as they are exempt under federal law.

Track Record/Monitor

The Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) will be responsible for monitoring compliance.

Background

Chapter 4, Article I of the County Code sets forth regulations governing air and ground ambulances and emergency medical transport vehicles. Pursuant to Section 4-7 of the Code, all rates shall be established

by the Board after a public hearing. The Code also provides that all private ground ambulance rates shall be uniform among all certificate holders.

There are five private ambulance certificate holders operating in Miami-Dade County. They are seeking approval of an increase in the authorized BLS, BLS Emergency and ALS rates. They also seek the establishment of new rates for ALS Level 2 and Specialty Care Transport.

ALS Level 2 is defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as the transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and the provision of medically necessary supplies and services including (1) at least three separate administrations of one or more medications by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous infusion (excluding crystalloid fluids) or (2) the provision of at least one of the following procedures: manual defibrillation/cardioversion, endotracheal intubation, central venous line, cardiac pacing, chest decompression, surgical airway, or intraosseous line. Specialty Care Transport is defined as the inter-facility transportation by ground ambulance service and the provision of medically necessary supplies and services, at a level of service beyond the scope of the EMT-Paramedic. This is necessary when a patient’s condition requires ongoing care that must be furnished by one or more health professionals in an appropriate specialty area (e.g., nursing, emergency medicine, respiratory care, cardiovascular care, or a paramedic with additional training).

The current rate schedule for private ambulance providers was approved by the Board in March 2004. Later, in June 2006, the Board approved an increase in the BLS rate and established a new BLS Emergency rate. All other rates have remained unchanged for over 18 years.

Since March 2004, staffing and vehicle costs as well as the average cost of drugs and medical supplies have increased. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased 65.5 percent for Transportation, 104 percent for Medical Care Services, and 132 percent for Fuel for this period.

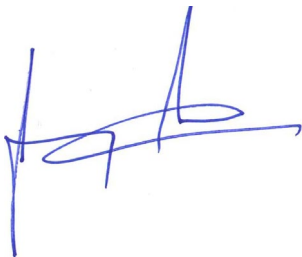
On May 3, 2022, the Board adopted Resolution No. R-434-22 (attached), sponsored by Commissioner Rene Garcia, directing the administration to investigate and prepare a report regarding private ambulance rates and to forward a recommendation for the Board’s consideration. The resolution included the following recommended rate schedule:

Table 1		
	Current Rate Adopted 2004 and 2006	Proposed Rate
Basic Life Support (BLS) Base Rate	\$256.00	\$550.00
Emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) Base Rate	\$358.67	\$600.00
Advanced Life Support (ALS) Base Rate	\$380.00	\$800.00
Advanced Life Support (ALS) 2 Base Rate	N/A	\$862.53
Specialty Care Transport (SCT)	N/A	\$988.38
Mileage Rate	\$7.50	\$10.85
Oxygen per tank or fraction thereof	\$30.00	\$32.55
Waiting Time		
BLS per ½ hour	\$80.00	\$110.00
ALS per ½ hour	\$120.00	\$150.00
Special Handling		
BLS	\$30.00	\$43.40
ALS	\$60.00	\$86.80

The private ambulance providers proposed BLS and ALS 2 rates generally lower than the rates currently in effect for the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR). The proposed ALS rate is the same as MDFR and the proposed SCT and oxygen rates would exceed MDFR’s rates. For comparison, Table 2 below shows MDFR’s Emergency Medical Services Rate Schedule adopted in 2012 as memorialized in Implementing Order No. IO 4-127.

Table 2	
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department Emergency Medical Services Rate Schedule	
	Adopted 2012
Basic Life Support Transport (BLS) (A0429)	\$800.00
Advanced Life Support 1 (ALS1) (A0427)	\$800.00
Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2) (A0433)	\$900.00
Specialty Care Transport (SCT) (A0434)	\$900.00
Mileage Rate	\$15.00
Oxygen per tank or fraction thereof	\$30.00

The rate adjustment is warranted to ensure that these critical service providers are able to continue delivering safe, efficient and responsive services to Miami-Dade County residents. The proposed rate increases will have little impact on individual consumers because ambulance transports are typically paid by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance. Uninsured patients account for less than 5% of the total patients being transported annually.



Jimmy Morales
Chief Operating Officer

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 3, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing the
County Mayor to investigate
and prepare a report regarding
private ambulance rates;
directing the County Mayor
to forward a recommendation
regarding any adjustments to the
private ambulance rates for the
Board's consideration following
a public hearing; and directing
the County Mayor to annually
investigate and prepare a report
and recommendation regarding
private ambulance rates

Resolution No. R-434-22

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 3, 2022

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)
5-3-22

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-434-22

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO INVESTIGATE AND PREPARE A REPORT REGARDING PRIVATE AMBULANCE RATES; DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PRIVATE AMBULANCE RATES FOR THE BOARD'S CONSIDERATION FOLLOWING A PUBLIC HEARING; AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO ANNUALLY INVESTIGATE AND PREPARE A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PRIVATE AMBULANCE RATES

WHEREAS, Chapter 4, Article I of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida (the "Code"), sets forth regulations governing air and ground ambulances and emergency medical transport vehicles operating in the County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 4-7 of the Code, all ambulance rates shall be established by the Board after public hearing; and

WHEREAS, section 4-7(b) of the Code provides that the County Mayor shall investigate all requests for rate changes and prepare a report for the Board's consideration; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2004, following a request by private ambulance providers, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-299-04, which established a rate schedule for private ambulance providers; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2006, the Board adopted Resolution No. R-776-06, which approved an increase in the Basic Life Support (BLS) rate, and established a new BLS Emergency rate; and

WHEREAS, this Board has not authorized an adjustment to the private ambulance rates for 16 years, since 2006; and

WHEREAS, the cost of doing business such as vehicle costs, wages, fuel, insurance and other areas of operation has increased significantly over the last 16 years; and

WHEREAS, private ambulance providers operating in the County have requested an increase in the private ambulance rates established by the Board; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 4-7(b), a public hearing is required prior to the Board's approval of any new rates,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the Board:

Section 1. In accordance with Chapter 4, Article I of the Code of Miami-Dade County, directs the County Mayor to investigate and prepare a report regarding private ambulance rates and to forward a recommendation for the Board's consideration following a public hearing. In preparing said investigation and report, the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee shall consider and prepare a recommendation regarding the Basic Life Support, Basic Life Support Emergency, and Advanced Life Support, Advanced Life Support, Level 2 and Specialty Care Transport and such other private ambulance transportation rates as proposed by the Board in the following Table:

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Basic Life Support (BLS) Base Rate	\$256.00	\$550.00
Emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) Base Rate	\$358.67	\$600.00
Advanced Life Support (ALS) Base Rate	\$380.00	\$800.00
Advanced Life Support (ALS) 2 Base Rate	N/A	\$862.53
Specialty Care Transport (SCT)	N/A	\$988.38
Mileage Rate	\$7.50	\$10.85
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Special Handling		
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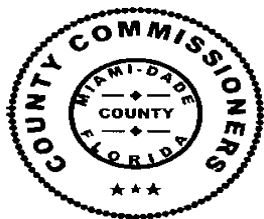
Section 2. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to annually investigate and prepare a report and recommendation concerning the then-existing private ambulance rates, which investigation shall, at a minimum, specify the relative changes in the consumer price index (“CPI”) over the preceding year and shall quantify what the rates would be if they were to be adjusted for such change in the CPI.

Section 3. Directs the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to, within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution, place the completed written report and recommendation required by section 1 of this resolution for the required public hearing on the next available agenda of the full Board without committee review pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator René García. It was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Chairman	aye
	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	aye
Sen. René García	aye	Keon Hardemon aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Danielle Cohen Higgins aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Joe A. Martinez aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Jean Monestime aye
Raquel A. Regalado	aye	Rebeca Sosa aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of May, 2022. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Basia Pruna

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

D.P.C

Dale P. Clarke



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 18, 2022

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 5(O)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 5(O)
10-18-22

RESOLUTION NO. R-978-22

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
AUTHORIZED RATE SCHEDULE FOR PRIVATE
AMBULANCE PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board, in accordance with chapter 4, article I of the Code, approves an amendment to the authorized rate schedule for private ambulance providers as follows:

	Approved Authorized Rate
Basic Life Support (BLS) Base Rate	\$550.00
Emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) Base Rate	\$600.00
Advanced Life Support (ALS) Base Rate	\$800.00
Advanced Life Support (ALS) 2 Base Rate	\$862.53
Specialty Care Transport (SCT)	\$988.38
Mileage Rate	\$10.85
Oxygen per tank or fraction thereof	\$32.55
Waiting Time	
BLS per ½ hour	\$110.00
ALS per ½ hour	\$150.00
Special Handling	
BLS	\$43.40
ALS	\$86.80

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** ,
 who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**
 and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman	aye	
	Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman	aye	
Sen. René García	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye
Eileen Higgins	aye	Kionne L. McGhee	aye
Jean Monestime	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Rebeca Sosa	aye	Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of October, 2022. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 BY ITS BOARD OF
 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: **Basia Pruna**
 Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
 to form and legal sufficiency.

D.P.C

Dale P. Clarke